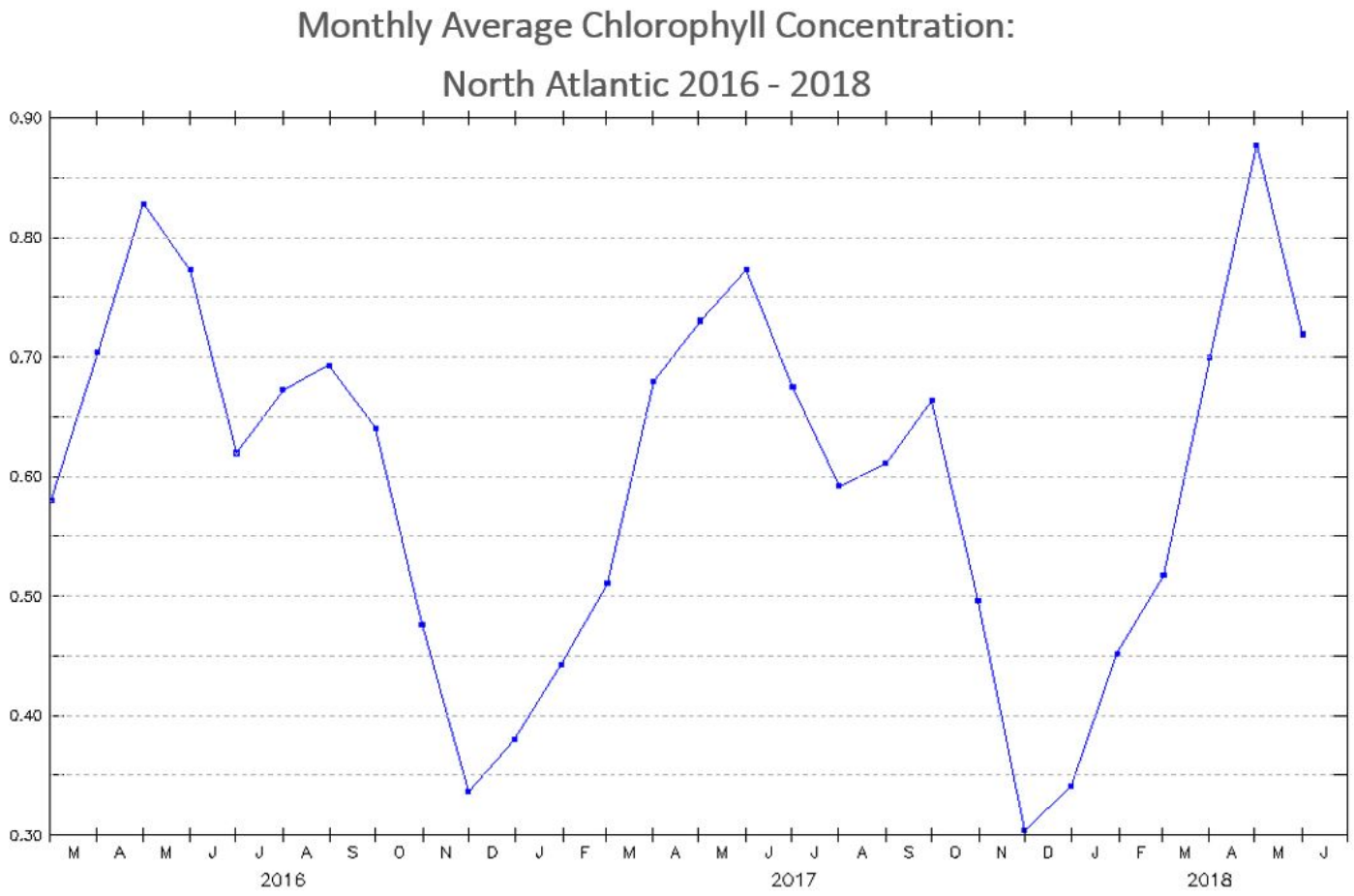
My NASA Data - Mini Lesson

Seasonal Phytoplankton Distribution & Shortwave Radiation in the North Atlantic

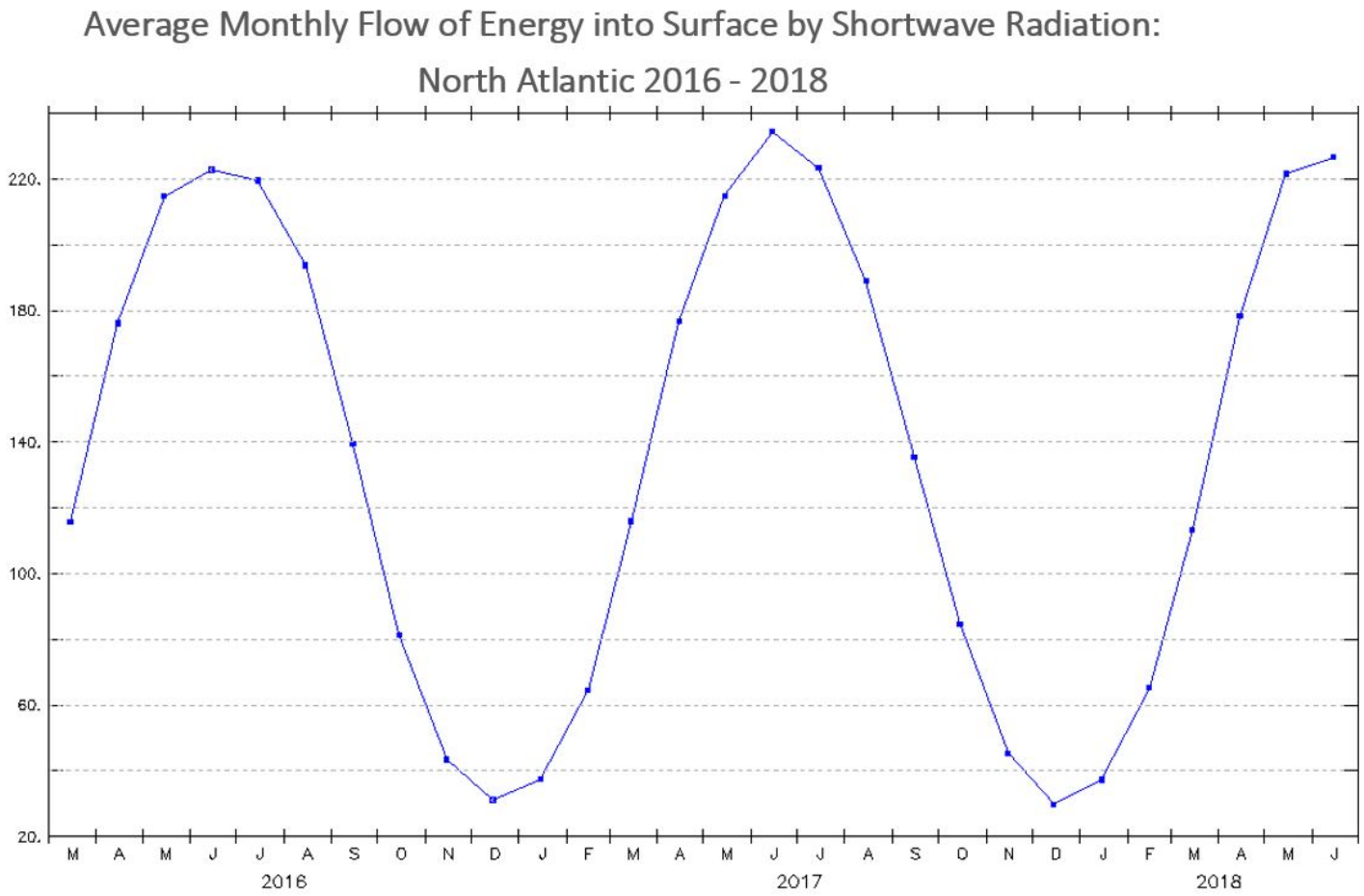


Mini Lesson

Analyze the line plot displaying Monthly Flow of Energy into Surface by Shortwave Radiation between the years of 2016 and 2018 in the North Atlantic Ocean and then answer the following questions.

The flow of energy into surface by shortwave radiation represents visible light coming from the Sun. The units of these data Watts per square meter, which is the flow of energy spread out over an area**.** Five Watts per square meter is equivalent to the power used by a standard cell phone charger (5 Watts) passing through a square piece of paper with length and width of 1 meter.

1. What variable is represented on the x-axis? What is the range of values?
2. What variable is represented on the y-axis? What is the range of values?
3. Describe the pattern that is revealed over the three years.
4. Make a prediction about what chlorophyll data collected over the same location in the North Atlantic over 2016-2018 will show.



Teachers who are interested in receiving the answer key, please contact MND from your school email address at larc-mynasadata@mail.nasa.gov.